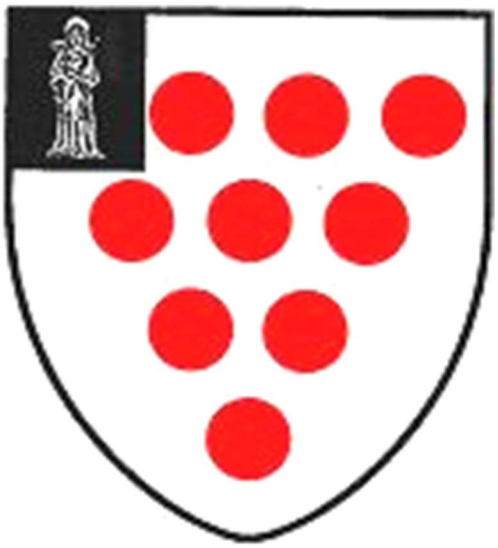
The Cathedral Church of Christ
and the Blessed Mary the Virgin of Worcester



Epiphany Carol Service

4 pm, Sunday 10 January 2021

Welcome

to everyone worshipping in the cathedral at this service.

The lower voices of the **cathedral choir** are conducted by the director of music, Samuel Hudson. The organ is played by the assistant director of music, Nicholas Freestone, who, before the service, will play 'Les Mages' from *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992).

Please kindly ensure that your **mobile phone** or any other electronic device is set to silent or otherwise turned off, so as not to distract other worshippers. Recording or filming of the service is not permitted. The service is being livestreamed.

A **collection** for the work of the cathedral will be taken as you leave, and we are extremely grateful for your generosity. To make a donation, please kindly use the enclosed envelope (completing the gift-aid details if you are a UK tax-payer) or use the contactless facilities provided. If you wish to give regularly, please contact Cathy Sloan in the Chapter Office (01905 732912).

The **latest news and notices** from the cathedral can be found in the 'News' section of the cathedral website: www.worcestercathedral.co.uk

You may like to use this **prayer of preparation** privately before the service begins:

> Creator of the heavens,
> who led the Magi by a star
> to worship the Christ-child:
> guide and sustain us,
> that we may find our journey's end
> in Jesus Christ our Lord.
> Amen.

The Greeting

The people stand at the entry of the ministers.

Dean A star has led the wise men to the Christ-child.

Arise, shine out, for your light has come;
All **the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

The nations will come to your light,
All **and kings to your dawning brightness.**

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
All **and proclaim the praise of the Lord.**

Your gates will lie open continually,
All **shut neither by day nor by night.**

No more will the sun give you daylight,
All **nor moonlight shine upon you.**

But the Lord will be your everlasting light,
All **your God will be your splendour.**

cf Isaiah 60

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All **and also with you.**

The people remain standing while the Very Reverend Dr Peter Atkinson, dean of Worcester, introduces the service and leads this gathering prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:
you receive our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
May our prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
and the lifting up of our hands be an evening sacrifice.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

First Reading

The people sit.

Reader A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60.1-6

Anthem

The choir sings this anthem

Surge, illuminare Jerusalem,
quia venit lumen tuum,
et gloria Domini super te orta est.
Alleluia.

Arise, shine, O Jerusalem;
for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.
Alleluia.

Words: Isaiah 60.1
Music: William Byrd (1543–1623)

Second Reading

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Ephesians 3.1-12

Anthem

The choir sings this anthem

Reges Tharsis et insulae munera offerent,
reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent.
Et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae,
omnes gentes servient ei.

The kings of Tharsis and the isles offer gifts,
the kings of Arabia and Sheba bring gifts.
And all the kings of the earth worship him,
all peoples bow before him.

Words: Psalm 72.10-11
Music: William Byrd

Third Reading

Reader A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Matthew 2.1-12

Anthem

Choir Say, where is he born the king of Judaea?
For we have seen his star, and are come to adore him.

Words: Matthew 2.2
Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

Fourth Reading

Reader A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

Matthew 2.13-23

Anthem

Choir

‘When he is King we will give him the Kings’ gifts,
myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
beautiful robes’, said the young girl to Joseph,
fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music,
songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
he that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music,
songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Words: Bruce Blunt (1899–1957)
Music: Peter Warlock (Philip Heseltine) (1894–1930)

Homily

The Reverend Canon Dr Michael Brierley, cathedral precentor, preaches a homily.

Anthem

Choir Brightest and best of the sons of the morning;
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826)
Music: Martin Akerman (1871–1938)

Prayers of Intercession

Canon Let us worship the Saviour with joy
and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The people kneel, and the Reverend Canon Dr Georgina Byrne, residentiary canon, leads them in prayers of intercession.

The kingdoms of this world have become
the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ:
Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world …

Lord of glory,
All **hear our prayer.**

The magi came from the east to worship your Son:
Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration …

Lord of glory,
All **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of a home and family at Nazareth:
Father, protect in your love our neighbours,
our families and this community of which we are a part …

Lord of glory,
All **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death:
Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless,
and all who suffer …

Lord of glory,
All **hear our prayer.**

The magi presented to your Son gifts of gold, incense and myrrh:
Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds
at the beginning of this new year …

Lord of glory,
All **hear our prayer.**

Canon Eternal God,
who by the shining of a star
led the magi to the worship of your Son:
guide by his light the nations of the earth,
that the whole world may behold your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

Canon Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Anthem

Choir *Christo paremus cantica,*
in excelsis gloria.

When Christ was born of Mary free,
in Bethle'm in that fair city,
angels sung e'er with mirth and glee,
in excelsis gloria.

Herdsmen beheld these angels bright,
to them appearèd with great light,
and said, 'God's Son is born this night':
in excelsis gloria.

This King is come to save his kind,
in the scripture as we find;
therefore this song have we in mind:
in excelsis gloria.

Then, dear Lord, for thy great grace,
grant us the bliss to see thy face,
where we may sing to thy solace:
in excelsis gloria.

Words: 15th-century
Music: John Joubert (1927–2019)

Carol

The people stand, and the choir sings the carol 'As with gladness men of old'.

The Blessing

The people remain standing.

Dean Christ our Lord,
to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory
and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Organ Voluntary

The people remain standing while the ministers depart, and the organist plays Epiphanie *by Gaston Litaize (1909–1991).*

Please leave at the direction of the stewards and vergers, and take this service-booklet away with you.

The offerings of the people are collected as they leave.

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